



Port Community Information Bulletin 18-03

Marine Safety Office
Tampa, Florida

(813) 228-2189

Effective Date: April 24, 2003

Expiration Date: Until Rescinded

SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

This bulletin supersedes bulletin 15-03 issued April 05, 2003.

SARS is a newly emerging and potentially fatal respiratory disease that is primarily breaking out in People's Republic of China (mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); Hanoi, Vietnam; Singapore; and Toronto, Canada.

The Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have released advisories to help increase public awareness (see www.cdc.gov). This is a serious disease syndrome often leading to pneumonia and sometimes causing death. We must be proactive in reducing the risk and/or exposure of SARS to our local maritime community.

This bulletin does not modify or supersede the requirements of U. S. Public Health Service Foreign Quarantine Regulation, Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 71 (42 CFR 71), which require the master of a ship destined for a U. S. port to report immediately to the quarantine station the occurrence, on board, of any death or any ill person (including those who have disembarked or have been removed) during the 15 day period preceding the date of expected arrival or during the period since departure from a U. S. port, whichever period of time is shorter.

In addition to our mutual concern over the public's welfare this illness represents, I have implemented measures to help protect U. S. Coast Guard boarding teams from exposure to SARS. Among these are pre-boarding queries, intended to ensure Coast Guard personnel do not board vessels until we are sure that either no crew exhibits SARS symptoms or that Coast Guard boarding teams are equipped to conduct security boardings in a way that minimizes exposure.

In order to prevent or minimize delays which may be experienced by these on scene queries and the last minute logistics of staging protective equipment and marshalling the support of the medical community, I request the master of each commercial vessel to provide a written statement to this office no less than 12 hours prior to the vessel's scheduled arrival at the sea buoy as to the health status of the crew. Should these statements contain information of ill crewmembers, we will work with the local quarantine station and Public Health authorities to determine whether or not the symptoms are consistent with SARS and implement appropriate measures. I am counting on your help to facilitate this information flow, which is critical to eliminating delays to vessel transits and maritime commerce, while protecting our local maritime community.

General SARS symptoms and information:

This SARS case definition was last updated by CDC on April 20, 2003. For the most recent case

definition go to www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm

Respiratory illness of unknown etiology with onset since February 1, 2003, and the following criteria:

- Measured temperature greater than 100.4°F (greater than 38°C) **AND**
- One or more clinical findings of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or hypoxia) **AND**

Travel within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS (People's Republic of China (i.e., mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); Hanoi, Vietnam; Singapore; and Toronto, Canada).

OR

Close contact within 10 days of onset of symptoms with a person known to be a suspect SARS case.

If there are ill crew aboard, the master must submit the attached report via facsimile to the Public Health Quarantine Station at (305) 526-2798 as required by 42 CFR 71. In addition, the information shown on the "Ill Crewmember Information" sheet should be sent to this office by fax at (813) 228-2399 and to Coast Guard Group St. Petersburg, FL, by fax at (727) 824-7610. Further, possible SARS cases should be reported to Coast Guard Group St. Petersburg via a 24-hour hotline at (727) 824-7532. The information will be critical to performing a timely assessment of the situation and in determining appropriate measures to be implemented.

If you have any questions, please contact LT Hartley at the above phone number, extension 123 or the High Interest Vessel desk at extension 156.

J.M. FARLEY
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port

III CREWMEMBER INFORMATION

VESSEL NAME:

CREW MEMBER NAME:

NATIONALITY:

PLACE AND DATE EMBARKED:

LAST FIVE PORTS VISITED WITH DATES:

COUNTRIES VISITED PRIOR TO EMBARKATION:

SYMPTOMS EXHIBITED: (Circle all that apply)

TEMPERATURE GREATER THAN 100.4F (38C)	
COUGH	
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	
DIFFICULTY BREATHING	
HYPOXIA	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: